

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 ABF-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 H-01
EB-08 OIC-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02 SSO-00 INRE-00
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O 081622Z JUN 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0592

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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FOR HA CARLIN FROM LOWMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SREF

SUBJECT: UNHCR FINANCING FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM;
JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION

1. CALL ON OLE VOLFFING, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION UNDERLINED TENUOUS NATURE OF JAPANESE \$10 MILLION
CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.
INDEED, ONLY THING SPECIFIC ABOUT THE PLEDGE IS THE FIGURE
ITSELF. THOUGH PLEDGED ORALLY ON APRIL 28 BY JAPANESE AM-
BASSADOR TO HCR HARTLING, THERE HAS BEEN NO WRITTEN FOLLOW-
UP DESPITE REPEATED INQUIRIES BY UNHCR. THE VALUE OF THE
PLEDGE WAS DILUTED FROM THE BEGINNING BY A LACK OF SPECIFI-
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CITY WHICH MADE IT UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS WAS A \$10 MILLION
PLEDGE OR ACTUALLY A PLEDGE OF A SMALLER AMOUNT TO BE RE-
PEATED OVER TWO OR MORE YEARS. IT WAS FURTHER DILUTED BY
QUESTIONS AS TO THE USE TO WHICH IT MIGHT BE PUT WITH THE
SUGGESTION THAT, RATHER THAN DEVOTING IT ENTIRELY TO THE
CURRENT BUDGET, IT MIGHT BE PARTIALLY ALLOCATED TO PERMA-
NENT RESETTLEMENT.

2. NOT ONLY IS SUCH A NEED FURTHER AWAY IN TIME BUT WE HAD HOPED AN ADDITIONAL JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING FOR THAT PURPOSE IN THE FUTURE. VOLFFING, HOWEVER, NOTES THAT THE JAPANESE ARE SUGGESTING THAT WE WOULD WANT THEM TO APPLY ONE HALF OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE "MONDALE CONSORTIUM" (I.E. PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT).

3. THE JAPANESE PLEDGE NOW HAS BEEN EVEN FURTHER DILUTED BY A QUESTION AS TO ITS SOURCE. THE JAPANESE FIRST PUT OFF VOLFFING'S PROPOSED VISIT TO TOKYO ON THE BASIS THAT THEY NEEDED TO COMPLETE THEIR OWN WORK ON THE CONTRIBUTION. THE JAPANESE MISSION IN GENEVA HAS NOW INQUIRED WHETHER VOLFFING MIGHT NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FOR THE JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNHCR FROM JAPANESE BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ALREADY PROGRAMMED TO THAILAND. VOLFFING DECLINED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE THAI WOULD HARDLY CONSIDER THIS A BENEFIT AND THE UNHCR WOULD NOT WANT TO GET CAUGHT BETWEEN THE RTG AND GOJ ON THIS MATTER.

4. IN VOLFFING'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO JAPAN, HE HOPES THAT THE USG AND US EMBASSY TOKYO WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS TO GAIN A MORE SPECIFIC AND FORTHCOMING COMMITMENT FROM THE GOJ. HE POINTS OUT THAT THE MOST URGENT NEED IS THE SHORTFALL IN THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUDGET FOR 1978. ALREADY THE SHARPLY RISING RATES OF ESCAPE BY BOAT HAVE PUSHED THE UNHCR'S BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THIS PROGRAM FOR 1978 TO A MINIMUM OF \$20 MILLION.

5. THE CURRENT STATE OF THE UNHCR BUDGET FOR THIS PURPOSE:

US	-	\$ 8,500,000
AUSTRALIA	-	1,500,242
UK	-	1,828,254
CANADA	-	225,225
JAPAN (AVAILABLE THIS YEAR THOUGH PAID AGAINST 1977 PLEDGE)		1,734,234
SWITZERLAND	-	134,409
NON-GOVERNMENTAL	-	60,275

CONTRIBUTIONS EXPECTED FROM FRG, NETHERLANDS, SCANDINAVIA AND OTHERS: - 2,500,000

6. THIS LEAVES A SHORTFALL OF \$3.5 MILLION AGAINST MINIMUM NEEDS. THE RAPIDLY BUILDING CASELOAD IN SOUTHEAST

ASIA THREATENS A CRISIS SITUATION IN WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS MAY WELL BE REQUIRED ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS, I.E., ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT, EXPANSION OF TRANSIT CENTER SPACE, ADDITIONAL CAMP FACILITIES, ETC. IN THIS CONNECTION, VOLFGING ALSO REQUESTS THAT THE USG MAKE AVAILABLE THE REMAINDER OF ITS OWN CONTRIBUTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. COMMENT: HAVING MADE THEIR PLEDGE AT LEAST PARTIALLY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES AND POSSIBLY WITHOUT HAVING COMPLETED THE NECESSARY STAFF WORK, THE GOJ NOW APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO CRAWFISH ON THIS OFFER. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE GROWING NEED OF THE UNHCR FOR THIS PROGRAM, WE SHOULD URGE THE GOJ TO BE MORE SPECIFIC AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR HA CARLIN FROM LOWMAN

SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE MAJOR NEED IS, OF COURSE, THE IMMEDIATE CARE AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET. VOLPING HOPES THAT GOJ WILL CONTRIBUTE \$5 MILLION IN 1978 AND \$5 MILLION IN 1979 TO THIS PURPOSE.

8. THIS WOULD SEEM A MINIMUM REQUEST IN LIGHT OF THE GROWING NEED AND THE FUSS THE GOJ IS MAKING ABOUT ITS CONTRIBUTION. THUS, FROM HERE, IT LOOKS AS IF USG SHOULD SUPPORT VOLPING'S MISSION TO TOKYO ON JULY 11-14 AS AGREED DURING HARTLING'S FEBRUARY VISIT TO WASHINGTON, IN WHATEVER MANNER DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY TOKYO BELIEVE MIGHT BE MOST EFFECTIVE. UNHCR WOULD NOT WANT TO BE SEEN AS USING USG TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON GOJ AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VOLPING'S REMARKS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL. HOWEVER, GIVEN GROWING PROBLEM AND FACT THAT UNHCR IS PRESSING US FOR AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO MEET SHORT-FALL, WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO INQUIRE OF JAPANESE INTENTIONS ON OUR OWN. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED TO TRANSFER OUTSTANDING \$5 MILLION OF U.S. PLEDGE TO UNHCR FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. UNHCR IS, OR WILL SOON BE, SHORT OF FUNDS IN ALL CATEGORIES; THAI CAMP MAINTENANCE, CARE AND MAINTENANCE FOR BOAT REFUGEES AND THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT TRAVEL.

9. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH THE RTG A FOLLOWUP ON OUR OFFER OF ONE TO TWO MILLION FOR PLANNING FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT IN THAILAND. CERTAINLY, WE HOPE AND EXPECT THE GOJ WILL ALSO WANT TO JOIN US IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS LARGER PROJECT ONCE THE RTG HAS DECIDED UPON THE COURSE IT WISHES TO FOLLOW AND THE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS ARE CLEARER. UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES OBJECTION, LOWMAN WILL CALL ON JAPANESE EMBASSY BANGKOK TO BRIEF THEM ON STATE OF PLAY THIS SUBJECT AND FOR GENERAL TENTATIVE DISCUSSION AS MEANS OF INITIATING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPANESE ON THIS SUBJECT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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